

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF APRIL 14, 2003

The regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Commission for Women was held on April 14, 2003 in Room 864, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, California.

President Jernigan called the meeting to order at 10:17 a.m., followed by introductions. The following Commissioners were present for the roll call, constituting a quorum:

President Jernigan
Vice President Mariajimenez
Treasurer Lesser
Commissioner Cooperman
Commissioner Creary
Commissioner Morgan
Commissioner Mummey
Commissioner Rodriguez

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Commissioner Cooperman, seconded by Commissioner Mummey, and unanimously carried, the minutes of March 24, 2003 were approved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Jernigan reported the following:

- She attended the Colon Cancer Awareness Health Fair on April 6 at the Airport Endoscopy Center in Westchester.
- She attended the 2003 Hoodie Awards at the Great Western Forum hosted by Steve Harvey.
- She attended the National Association for Female Executives Conference at the Omni Hotel in Downtown Los Angeles on April 10, 2003.
- She passed out a newspaper article on 2003 Woman of the Year recipient, Nora Mitsumori.
- She informed the Commission that Third District Woman of the Year recipient Sister Carmel Somers wrote a thank you letter to the Commission for honoring her and Sister Una Connolly at the 2003 Awards Luncheon.
- The Commission received a certificate from the American Cancer Society in appreciation for the Commission's donation to the 2003 Daffodil Days Campaign.

STAFF REPORT

Staff reported the following:

- At its April 1, 2003 meeting, on recommendation of Supervisor Knabe, the Board of Supervisors reappointed Charlotte Lesser to the Commission for Women, for a term of office expiring August 29, 2004.
- April is Sexual Assaults Awareness Month. The Los Angeles Commission on Assaults Against Women is organizing Denim Day in L.A. on Wednesday, April 23.
- At the April 8 Board meeting, on recommendation of Supervisor Knabe, the Board instructed the Director of Public Works to negotiate an agreement to produce and install Safe Surrender Public Service Announcements posters at all available unincorporated area bus shelters.

PRESENTATION ON STATE LEGISLATION BY PRESS DEPUTY TO CALIFORNIA STATE SENATOR GLORIA ROMERO

Kristine Guerrero, Press Deputy, Senator Gloria Romero's District Office, reported the following:

- Senator Romero's District has a population of 850,000 residents and covers unincorporated areas of East Los Angeles through the San Gabriel Valley through West Covina to Duarte and reaches over to Puente Hills, and has the largest operating landfill in the country.
- The Senator has 30 bills up for consideration this year. The issues range from education, and environmental issues to emergency services. The Board of Supervisors has endorsed the "Nickel A Drink" legislation, formerly known as The Alcohol Reimbursement Act of 2003. This bill, SB No. 5, deals with California's emergency room and trauma care crisis. This bill proposes to put a 5-cent fee on alcohol at the wholesale level to fund emergency rooms and trauma centers in California, and is estimated to raise \$750 million annually.
- The State of California has closed 60 emergency rooms and 15 trauma centers in the last 13 years, leaving only 317 emergency rooms and 42 trauma centers for California's population of approximately 32 million people.
- A large portion of emergency room patient population consists of the working poor who do not have medical insurance for regular preventive care, and therefore use emergency rooms as their last resort for medical services.
- One-third of emergency room visits are alcohol-related.

- Senator Romero is Chair of the Select Committee on the California Correctional System. In this capacity the Senator is looking at the way California is spending its money on the correctional system.
- The Senator is also looking at the declining population of women's prisons, and looking into the possible closure of at least one of California's women's prisons.
- The Senator has an environmental bill that would ban the disposal of radioactive waste in urban landfills. The Department of Health Services has allowed low level radioactive waste to be disposed of in California's landfills, including Bradley Landfill, Sunshine Landfill, and Puente Hills Landfill. Some of the materials in these landfills are used to recycle metal into items such as belt buckles and spoons.
- The Senator is advocating scaling back the Governor's proposal to cut \$1 billion dollars from the community college budget where the fees, per unit, will be more than doubled if the Governor's proposal is passed.

After a question and answer period, President Jernigan thanked Ms. Guerrero for her presentation, and informed her that the Commission will endorse the "Nickel A Drink" legislation by writing a letter of support to the Senator's office.

FORM A NOMINATING COMMITTEE AND SELECT NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR FOR 2003 ELECTION OF COMMISSION OFFICERS

President Jernigan announced that Commissioner Mummey will serve as the Chair and representative of the Fourth District on the ad hoc Nominating Committee for the Annual Election of Officers. President Jernigan requested Commissioners from each Supervisorial District to serve on the committee. Commissioners Rodriguez, Creary, Cooperman, and Morgan will represent the First, Second, Third and Fifth Districts respectively.

APPROVE PURCHASE OF TICKETS FOR CEDARS-SINAI MEDICAL CENTER'S SECOND ANNUAL WOMEN'S HEALTH CONFERENCE

On motion of Commissioner Cooperman, seconded by Vice President Maria Jimenez, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the expenditure of \$40 each for 3 Commissioners to attend the Cedar's Sinai Medical Center's Second Annual Women's Health Conference on Friday, April 25, 2003 and will reimburse Commissioner Creary for the \$35 registration she had previously paid for the event.

President Jernigan, Commissioners Cooperman, Creary, and Rodriguez will attend.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Health Committee

Commissioner Creary reported the following:

- She passed out the minutes of the March 24 meeting and announced that the next Health Committee meeting is May 12, 2003 at 8:45 a.m.
- She reminded Commissioners that the Revlon Run/Walk is May 10 and the Commission team number is 364. She encouraged Commissioners to participate and to raise awareness of the event.

Commissioner Rodriguez reported the following:

- The Domestic Violence Committee met today and discussed the report "Domestic Violence on the Home Front," and the lack of adequate police protection for women in situations of domestic violence, domestic violence training for law enforcement officers, and identity protection for victims of domestic violence.
- She asked Commissioners to individually review the State of California Criminal Justice Planning Forensic Medical Report: Domestic Violence Medical Examination, and send comments and suggestions to Lisa Stenhouse-Gaskin at (916) 734-5644.

Legislative Committee

Vice President Maria Jimenez reported that the Legislative Committee will put together a list of specific bills that the Commission delegation will lobby for on Women in Action Lobby Day on May 15. She further reported that the four overwhelming areas of legislative concern are bills related to CalWorks cutbacks, domestic violence, health, and education.

(Commissioner Carpenter McMillan joined the meeting.)

Media/Public Relations Committee

Commissioner Morgan reported that the Media/Public Relations Committee will meet on May 12, and that the press release for the 5K Run/Walk will be presented at that meeting.

Older Women's Issues Committee

Commissioner Mummey passed out the pamphlet "Suggestions on How to Hire and Supervise In-Home Help," which was created to offer guidance to seniors who hire in-home support services. The pamphlet lists important phone numbers, as well as crucial aspects of the hiring process such as suggestions for interviewing, contracting and supervising their hired assistants.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gladys Castro informed the Commission of the Colon Cancer Awareness Health Fair held Sunday, April 6 at the Airport Endoscopy Center in Westchester, and the National Association for Female Executives Conference at the Omni Hotel in Downtown held April 10 and 11.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Rodriguez attended the April 8 Board of Supervisors meeting where the District Attorney's Office was recognized for the work they have done on behalf of domestic violence victims. She passed out homeland survival awareness posters, which list phone numbers and information on what to do in the event of a terrorist attack.

On behalf of Commissioner Perkins, Treasurer Lesser reported the following:

- Commissioners Perkins and Duba attended The YWCA Annual Awards Luncheon. They will work with Ruth Hopkins, publisher of the Pasadena/San Gabriel Valley Journal, to obtain the newspaper's support for the 5K Run/Walk.
- Commissioner Perkins attended the Los Angeles African-American Women's Public Policy Institute meeting.
- The Los Angeles Women's Appointment Collaboration will host "The 13th Annual Get Appointed Workshop: Secure Your Seat at the Policy Table" on Saturday, May 31, 2003 at the Skirball Cultural Center.

Treasurer Lesser reported the following:

- She participated in a Neighborhood Watch Emergency Preparedness meeting in Manhattan Beach. She informed the Commission of the website ready.gov, which contains vital information about homeland security.
- She attended Alcohol Awareness Day, where the assessment of alcohol use and how it affects one's health was discussed.
- She invited Commissioners to attend the 5th Annual "Accelerate Your Business, Celebrate Your Soul" Women in Business Conference on Friday, April 25, 2003 at the Four Points Sheraton LAX. Registration for the event is at www.mbwib.com.

Commissioner Creary attended the We Sparks theater party. The organization offers free services to female cancer survivors in the San Fernando Valley.

Commissioner Cooperman attended a meeting where the issue of separation of church and state was discussed, specifically legislation that proposes to allow religious organizations to handle public funds for social services; and a discussion with former Secretary of Labor Robert Reich on the Bush Administration's tax cuts in relation to community services and how federal money is spent.

MATTERS NOT ON THE POSTED AGENDA

Commissioner Carpenter McMillan spoke on potential ways to recognize the female soldiers who were captured as prisoners of war in Iraq.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, and after a moment of silence, the Commission adjourned in memory of Mr. Celes King at 11:55 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

COMMISSIONERS

Ruth Jernigan, President
Yvonne Mariajimenez, Esq., Vice President
Charlotte Lesser, Treasurer
Susan Carpenter McMillan
Roslyn Cooperman
Ruth Creary, Ph.D.
Lila Morgan
Janet Mummey, Esq.
Olivia Rodriguez

EXCUSED

Yolanda Becerra-Jones
Reiko Duba
Barbara Perkins

UNEXCUSED

Sophia Esparza
Brenda C. Smith, M.D.

COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Khanh Nguyen, Executive Office
Jim Corbett, Executive Office
Twila Kerr, Executive Office
Steve Erickson, Executive Office
Cheryl Diaz, Executive Office
Bob Tyra, Los Angeles County Office Education

GUESTS

Rose Borja
Gladys Castro, Latina Business Network
Kristine Guerrero, Honorable Gloria Romero's Office
Mary Lang, Comadrona Communication
Yvonne La Rose, Executive Recruiting Entrance